

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 26, 2004. Claims 43 to 49 are in the application, of which Claims 43 and 46 are independent. Claim 43 has been amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to attend to formal matters.

Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 46 to 49 have been allowed. These claims have not been amended herein, and thus remain in condition for allowance.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that Claim 44 contains allowable subject matter. Claim 44 has not been rewritten in independent form as otherwise suggested in the Office Action, since it is believed that independent Claim 43 is also in condition for allowance, as detailed more fully below.

Claims 43 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,194,239 (Tayanaka). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to one feature of the invention as recited by Claim 43, the first electrode has substantially the same beltlike form as the second electrode.

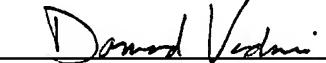
Tayanaka is not seen to teach or suggest at least the foregoing feature.

Applicants therefore conclude that Tayanaka does not teach or suggest the claimed invention, and it is respectfully requested that the Section 102 rejection be withdrawn.

No other matters being raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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